

# PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS



## On Proposed Modifications to the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

- WHO:** U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office and Washington TRU Solutions LLC (WTS).
- WHAT:** DOE and WTS will conduct these public meetings to provide information on the following requested permit modifications. There will be a 60-day public comment period beginning on May 16, 2003.
- WHEN:** Tuesday, June 3, 2003  
5 – 7 p.m. Thursday, June 5, 2003  
2 – 4 p.m. & 6 – 8 p.m.
- WHERE:** Skeen-Whitlock Building  
4021 National Parks Highway  
Carlsbad, New Mexico Courtyard by Marriott  
3347 Cerrillos Road  
Santa Fe, New Mexico
- WHY:** On May 13, 2003, DOE submitted the following permit modification requests to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED).
- 1. Removal of Underground Booster Fans (Class 2)**—this will allow the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) facility to remove three unneeded booster fans currently located in the underground. Additions to the current ventilation system provide adequate airflow throughout the underground.
  - 2. Packaging-Specific Drum Age Criteria (DAC) for New Approved Waste Disposal Containers (Class 2)**—this will establish packaging-specific DAC values for the following waste containers that have recently been added to the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (HWFP): direct-loaded 85-gallon drums, 100-gallon drums, and direct-loaded ten-drum overpacks. The methodology used to determine the packaging-specific DAC values for the new containers is the same as that used for the determination of the DAC values specified in the current HWFP.
  - 3. Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Sealed-Sources Waste Streams Headspace Gas Sampling and Analysis Requirements (Class 2)**—this will establish compliance criteria for the assignment of headspace gas volatile organic compound concentration values in lieu of headspace gas sampling and analysis for the characterization of waste containers belonging to LANL sealed sources waste streams. This proposal is limited to those sealed sources waste containers for which compliance with the defined criteria is determined and documented.
  - 4. Removal of Formaldehyde as a Required Analyte at LANL (Class 2)**—this would eliminate the need for LANL to continue to test for formaldehyde as an analyte. Recent data has shown that LANL's TRU waste contains no formaldehyde and does not require continued testing.
  - 5. Addition of Hazardous Waste Numbers (Class 2)**—Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS) has some TRU waste which has been assigned hazardous waste numbers that are not currently allowed under the WIPP Permit. These numbers must be added to allow RFETS to ship this waste to WIPP.
  - 6. Construction and Use of Disposal Units (Class 3)**—under the current permit, WIPP is limited as to how many disposal panels can be constructed and contain waste. This was based on the fact that every ten years, WIPP would apply for a new permit and additional panels would be allocated at that time. However, WIPP is disposing of waste faster than anticipated and therefore, will need additional panels prior to the expiration of the initial ten year permit.
- HOW:** To obtain additional information concerning these permit modification requests, contact Mr. Bobby St. John, WTS, at 1-800-336-9477. The permit modification is also available on the WIPP web site at <http://www.wipp.ws> and at the WIPP Information Center, Skeen-Whitlock Building, 4021 National Parks Highway, Carlsbad, New Mexico. A copy of the requested permit modifications also may be obtained from NMED at the address listed below.
- COMMENTS:** Written comments for the record must be sent to the NMED contact person at the address below and received no later than 5 p.m. on July 14, 2003:
- Mr. Steve Zappe  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
Phone: 505-428-2517  
Fax: 505-428-2567  
E-mail: [steve\\_zappe@nmenv.state.nm.us](mailto:steve_zappe@nmenv.state.nm.us)
- The Permittees' compliance history during the life of the permit being modified is available from Mr. Steve Zappe at the New Mexico Environment Department.
- QUESTIONS:** Any questions or comments of the Permittees regarding these permit modifications may be sent to Mr. Bobby St. John, P.O. Box 2078, Carlsbad, NM 88221, no later than July 7, 2003.